SOC 2205b-001 FW20, Winter 2021

Asynchronous online class via OWL

YOUR TEACHING TEAM

Instructor

Dr. Anna Zajacova, anna.zajacova@uwo.ca

Teaching assistants

Marina Wiebe, mwiebe25@uwo.ca
Janet Moore, jmoor82@uwo.ca

STUDENT HOURS (a.k.a office hours) via Collaborate Tab on OWL

- Wednesdays 1-3 pm (with Marina Wiebe)
- Thursdays 4-6 pm (with Anna Zajacova)
- Fridays 10-12 noon (with Janet Moore)

Student (office) hours are a time for you, dedicated to assisting you so you can succeed in this class. You are welcome to drop in any time during any of the 3 options above; you don't need any appointments or heads-up – just log into OWL and go to Collaborate UE. Give us a minute to let you in; you can join the discussion if there are other students or you can wait to ask questions, but please be patient if we're still talking with your colleagues.

UNIVERSAL ACCOMMODATION

This academic year is extremely hard on most of us. Therefore, this class will apply universal accommodation to help you manage the workload and decrease stress. The accommodations include the following:

- The weekly quizzes can be completed during a 24-hour stretch from Friday 1 pm to Saturday 1 pm. The quiz should take no more than 10-15 minutes for the prepared student, but we will allocate 45 minutes. That is, you have 45 minutes from the time you start the quiz on Friday afternoon to complete it and you can start any time between 1 and 5 pm.
  Moreover, we will only count the **best 9 of 12** quizzes – so you can skip a couple, or do poorly on some, and your grade won't be affected. The lowest 3 scores (whether they are a low score or a zero because you skipped a quiz) will be dropped automatically when calculating final grades.
- For the assignments, we will **not** apply late penalty for the first 5 days after the due date. On day 6, we begin subtracting 8% from the grade you earned per day.
- For the final exam, designed to require 75 minutes, you will have 2.5 hours.

This way, you do not need to request academic accommodation or use self-excused absences if things come up during the semester. You do not need to contact me, for instance, if you simply decide to skip a quiz one week or if you will be submitting your assignment a couple of days late.

COMMUNICATION

- The primary mode of communication, asking questions, clarification, posting comments etc is via **OWL Forum.**
  If you have a question of a personal nature, please email your teaching team. We will aim to respond to your message within 24 hours between Monday and Friday.
- All course material will be available via OWL.

PREREQUISITES

1.0 Sociology course at the 1000 level

Antirequisite(s)
Biology 2244A/B, Economics 2122A/B, 2222A/B, Geography 2210A/B, Health Sciences 3801A/B, MOS 2242A/B, Psychology 2810, 2820E, 2830A/B, 2850A/B, 2851A/B, Social Work 2207A/B, Statistical Sciences 2035, 2141A/B, 2143A/B, 2244A/B, 2858A/B.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology 2205 is an introductory course designed to help you conduct and interpret basic quantitative analysis of social issues. The class will cover elementary statistical concepts and methods used in sociology and other social sciences. The emphasis in the class will be not on computation but on understanding the science and art of analysis and interpretation of findings. The material in this course can be roughly divided into two parts

1) The first part will cover **descriptive statistics**. Here we will learn how to summarize and describe data, first one variable at a time and then pairs of variables. We will learn basic numerical and graphical methods appropriate to categorical and continuous variables.
2) The second part will be **inference**, where we will learn how to generalize sample results to the population. This part will start with the basic logic of inference, focusing on the importance of sampling distributions. Then we will apply the logic of inference to univariate and bivariate hypothesis tests and confidence interval calculations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After a successful completion of the course, you will be able to

- Understand and appreciate statistics' role in social-science inquiry
- Comprehend basic statistics used in industry, government, and academic reports
- Conduct elementary quantitative analysis of data independently
- Explain the basics of the logic of statistical inference
- Critically assess the presentation of statistical data in everyday life (i.e., the media)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. **Textbook "Introductory Statistics"** by Illovsky and Dean (2018), OpenStax, Rice University. This is a great textbook and available ***FREE*** online at https://openstax.org/details/books/introductory-statistics. You can view the chapters online or download pdfs. If you wish, you can also buy the actual printed book from the US or Canadian Amazon or other sources for a reasonable price.
   We will only cover select chapters and chapter sections – I will indicate which sections to read for each week in my instructions.

Additional materials, if any, will be made available on OWL.

2. **Statistical software: Stata 16 (older versions are equally fine). We will be using Stata throughout the semester and you will need access to it. You can either:**
   - Purchase a 6-month license for Stata Version IC from https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/profplus/student-pricing/ for $48 USD. This is the easiest option, to have the software installed on your own laptop or desktop.
   - Alternatively, you can access Stata for free through Western's MyVLab remote access interface (https://myvlab.uwo.ca/) using the Web Client link https://myvlab.vdi.uwo.ca/portal/webclient/index.html#/. A drawback here is that you will have to figure out how to move data between your machine and the remote server, but the Stata software is the same.

You will also need a calculator. Any will do, even the one on your phone.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Evaluation Breakdown

1. Assignments (3)	50%
2. Weekly quizzes (12)	30%
3. Final exam	20%

1. Assignments (50%)

The assignments will allow you to practice all key facets of the covered material. They will comprise a combination of 'homework' type problems and an independent analysis (you can think of those as lab reports or mini research papers). The value of each report is 16.67%.

Due dates are below in the Important Dates section. I will release each assignment at least 7 full days before the due date.

2. Weekly quizzes (30%)

The goal of the weekly quizzes is to nudge you to work consistently and to check your understanding in near-real time. There will be 12 assignments but only your best 9 will be included in the calculation of the final grade. The value of each included assignment is 3.33%.

3. Final exam (20%)

The final test will be administered during the regular fall exam period. The final exam is cumulative and will comprise all conceptual and applied material covered over the semester.

There is no extra credit. Please work consistently throughout the semester. The timing, quantity, and types of assessment are carefully chosen to draw on a broad spectrum of your skills and strengths and to give you regular timely feedback on your learning.

In keeping with departmental grade guidelines, it is expected that the **class average for this course will be around 69-73%.** Should the final grades yield a value significantly *below* this range, grades will be adjusted upward to ensure an appropriate mean for the class.

IMPORTANT DATES, COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS

I will release new material for the week ahead by Saturday. You will have until the following Saturday morning to complete all of that week's material at your own pace. On Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, you will complete the weekly quiz starting January 15th.

1/11-1/15	Week 1. Introduction Chapter 1: intro, 1.1-1.3
1/18-1/22	Week 2. Descriptives for categorical variables Chapter 2: intro, 2.1-2.3
1/25-1/29	Week 3. Descriptives for continuous variables Chapter 2: intro, 2.1-2.7
2/1-2/5	Week 4. Probability, distributions Chapter 3: intro, 3.1. Chapter 4: intro, 4.1, 4.2. Chapter 5: intro, 5.1
2/8-2/12	Week 5. The Normal distribution Chapter 6: intro, 6.1, 6.2 Assignment 1 due February 12.
2/15-2/19	Reading week, no class!!!
2/22-2/26	Week 6. Sampling distributions Chapter 7: intro, 7.1-7.3
3/1-3/5	Week 7. Confidence interval for population mean, proportion Chapter 8: intro, 8.1-8.3
3/8-3/12	Week 8. Hypothesis tests about a population mean Chapter 9: intro, 9.1-9.6.
3/15-3/19	Week 9. Hypothesis tests about two population means Chapter 10: intro, 10.1-10.4 Assignment 2 due March 19.
3/22-3/26	Week 10. Chi square test Chapter 11: intro, 11.1, 11.3-11.4
3/29-4/3	Week 11. Correlation Chapter 12: intro, 12.1-12.5
4/5-4/9	Week 12. Regression. No new readings. Assignment 3 due April 9.
TBD	Final Exam TBD

Please note: Schedule and readings are subject to change.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

Note Regarding Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health @Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.